

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An image reading apparatus has: image sensors having different spectral characteristics from one another; a layered image generation section for generating layered image data based on an output from the image sensors; a comparison section for comparing a threshold of each layered image data against a pixel value of each layered image data, the threshold being predetermined corresponding to each layered image data, and for judging existence of a document image on each pixel; an estimated document area determination section for determining an estimated document area of each layered image data based on a result of judging the existence by the comparison section; a document area detection section for detecting a document area on the basis of the estimated document area of each layered image data; and a document reading section for reading a document on the basis of the document area detected by the document area detection section.